

Doc. No. 4033D

Page 1

Telegram (To be kept in locked file)

(Secret Cipher Process)

Tokyo, 23 June 1941      1235 M  
Arrived 22 " "      2215 hours

No. 1012 of 22 June      Most urgent!

In answer to telegraphic instruction Multex No. 401  
of 21 June,

For the Reich Foreign Minister

Today at 1900 Japanese time, after receiving the telegram instruction mentioned above, I called on Foreign Minister MATSUOKA. I explained to him in detail the memorandum of the German Government and moreover handed to him the proclamation of the Fuehrer.

The Foreign Minister accepted my explanation appreciatively and told me that Ambassador OSHIMA had been informed by the Reich Foreign Minister, after 0400 German time, corresponding to 1100 Japanese time, that war with the Soviet Union had begun. He thereupon requested me for information whether there had been a formal declaration of war. I answered in the negative and referred him to the text of the memorandum, where mention is made of the removal of a threat made against the German Reich. MATSUOKA described my explanation as valuable, but requested me to ask Berlin for information on this point. Precise wording of the question is without decisive significance for the attitude of the Japanese Government. However he requested precise information on the German point of view.

MATSUOKA remarked further:

1. A meeting of the Control Committee of the cabinet, consisting of the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, the Army Chief and the Finance Minister will take place tomorrow afternoon. He would report on the situation and hoped to be able to inform the German Government expeditiously of the opinion of the Japanese Government.

2. The Japanese Government would adopt no measures without detailed consultation with the Government of the Reich.

3. For himself he could once again assert that the United States would not be in a position to deliver military supplies to the Soviet Union by the Pacific route. The Japanese cabinet would certainly be of the same opinion.

4. He had requested all departments to refrain from giving their own views on the situation through spokesmen; the Japanese press was recommended to be reticent by the Bureau of Information.

MATSUOKA then asked me for information whether Germany reckoned on a quick collapse of the Stalin regime, as he had for some time been able to see danger in it only through an external war. When I answered that the German considerations were not known by me in detail he requested information from Berlin.

MATSUOKA continued that he had gained the impression from the report of Ambassador OSHIMA, that the Fuehrer and the Foreign Minister did not expect active Japanese participation against the Soviet Union on the basis of the Tri-Partite Pact. He personally was of the same opinion as before, that in the long run Japan could not remain neutral in this conflict. In the event of the entry of the United States of America into the war, as a result of the Russo-German war, he personally considered that the Tri-Partite Pact would apply to Japan.

Towards the end of the interview MATSUOKA received another telegram from OSHIMA wherein the Reich Foreign Minister called attention to an alleged Russian withdrawal of troops from the Far East. MATSUOKA explained spontaneously that he would immediately propose counter measures. MATSUOKA was thoroughly positive and cordial throughout the whole interview. He denied emphatically that the existence of the cabinet was in danger, and he repeatedly expressed his confidence that a quick success would be the lot of the German proceedings.

With regard to the current economic negotiations, he advocated that they should be carried on steadily.

Request telegraphic answer to the question brought up by MATSUOKA.

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AFFIDAVIT

I, W. P. Cumming, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

1. That I am an Attache of the United States Department of State on the Staff of the United States Political Adviser on German Affairs, and as such I am a representative of the Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.). That in my capacity as above set forth, I have in my possession, custody and control at the Berlin Documents Center, Berlin, Germany, the original captured German Foreign Office files and archives.

2. That said original Foreign Office files and archives were captured and obtained by military forces under the command of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and upon their seizure and capture were first assembled by said military forces at a Military Document Center at Marburg, Germany, and were later moved by authorized personnel of said Allied forces to said central documents center, above referred to, and known as the Berlin Documents Center.

3. That I was assigned to said document center at Marburg, Germany, on August 15, 1945, and said captured German Foreign Office files and archives first came into my possession and control while I was stationed at Marburg, Germany, and that thereafter the same have continued in my possession and custody and under my control.

4. That the document to which this affidavit is attached is a true and correct photostatic copy of an original German Foreign Office document which was captured from said German Foreign Office files and archives, and which came into my possession and custody and under my control in the manner above set forth.

5. That said original document, of which the attached is a photostatic copy, is being held and retained by me in order that it may be examined and inspected by various interested agencies, and a photostatic copy of said original is hereby furnished and certified to because of the unavailability of said original for the reasons above set forth.

/s/ W. P. Cumming  
W. P. CUMMING

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of April 1946.

/s/ G. H. Garde  
G. H. GARDE  
Lt. Colonel, AGD  
Acting Adjutant General

OFFICE OF MILITARY  
GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)